

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes, for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a switch portion arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the input unit, and said switch portion being assigned to the function associated with a relative position with respect to said display,

wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof, and

wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

Claim 8 (canceled).

9. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus for recording external information, including an input unit disposed on the recording apparatus for transmitting a user's instruction to said information recording apparatus,

said input unit comprising

a mode switch for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus;

a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the recording apparatus; and

a display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,

wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof, and

wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

Claims 10-11 (canceled).

12. (currently amended) ~~At~~ The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

13. (currently amended) ~~At~~ The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

14. (currently amended) ~~At~~ The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

15. (currently amended) ~~At~~ The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said display is arranged to have a plurality of background colors, and one of said

plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said plurality of background colors include a color for a recording state and another color for a playback state.

17. (currently amended) A digital camera for capturing an image, comprising:  
a mode switch for setting an operation mode of the digital camera;  
an image-capturing unit operable to capture an image;  
a capture controlling unit operable to control said image-capturing unit;  
a processing unit operable to process said image; and  
an operating unit operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera,  
said operating unit comprising  
a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the digital camera; and  
a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,  
wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof, and  
wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

Claims 18-27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) The input unit as claimed in claim ~~27~~ 7, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

29. (previously presented) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

Claims 30-35 (canceled).

36. (currently amended) The ~~input unit~~ information recording apparatus as claimed in claim ~~35~~ 9, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

37. (currently amended) The ~~input unit~~ information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

Claims 38-39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) The digital camera ~~input unit~~ as claimed in claim ~~39~~ 17, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

41. (currently amended) The ~~input unit~~ digital camera as claimed in claim 17, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

42. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:  
a cross key having a crossing part and switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the input unit ; and  
a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode

selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in said crossing part of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

43. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display at positions sandwiching said display so as to oppose to each other, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to said switch portions.

44. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a display for presenting functions corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit, and said switch portions respectively being assigned to the functions corresponding to relative positions of said plurality of switch portions with respect to said display.

45. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

46. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of

said display.

47. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

48. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

49. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

50. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

51. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

52. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

53. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 17, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

54. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 17, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

55. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 17, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

56. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 40, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

57. (new) An information recording apparatus for recording external information, including an input unit disposed on the recording apparatus for transmitting a user's instruction to said information recording apparatus,

said input unit comprising

a mode switch for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus;

a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the recording apparatus; and

a display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,

wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

58. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

59. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

60. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said display is arranged to have a plurality of background colors, and one of said plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

61. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein said plurality of background colors include a color for a recording state and another color for a playback state.

62. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

63. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

64. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 63, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

65. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

66. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

67. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

68. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

69. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

70. (new) A digital camera for capturing an image, comprising:  
a mode switch for setting an operation mode of the digital camera;  
an image-capturing unit operable to capture an image;  
a capture controlling unit operable to control said image-capturing unit;  
a processing unit operable to process said image; and  
an operating unit operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera,  
said operating unit comprising  
a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically

disposed on the digital camera; and

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,

wherein an input unit is arranged on a face of said digital camera that faces a user when the user uses said digital camera in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

71. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 70, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

72. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 71, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

73. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 72, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

74. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 70, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

75. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 70, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

76. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 70, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

77. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 70, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

78. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 73, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

79. (new) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes, for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

- a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

- a switch portion arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the input unit, and said switch portion being assigned to the function associated with a relative position with respect to said display,

- wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

80. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

81. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 80, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

82. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 81, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

83. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

84. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, further comprising:  
a cross key having a crossing part and switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the input unit ; and  
a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in said crossing part of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,  
wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

85. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, further comprising:  
a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and  
a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display at positions sandwiching said display so as to oppose to each other, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit,  
wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to said switch portions.

86. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, further comprising:  
a display for presenting functions corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and  
a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit, and said switch portions respectively being assigned to the functions corresponding to relative positions of said plurality of switch portions

with respect to said display.

87. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

88. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 79, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

89. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 82, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

90. (new) An information recording apparatus for recording external information, including an input unit disposed on the recording apparatus for transmitting a user's instruction to said information recording apparatus,

said input unit comprising

a mode switch for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus;

a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the recording apparatus; and

a display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,

wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

91. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

92. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

93. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

94. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said display is arranged to have a plurality of background colors, and one of said plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

95. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 94, wherein said plurality of background colors include a color for a recording state and another color for a playback state.

96. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

97. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 96, wherein said

information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

98. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

99. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

100. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

101. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

102. (new) The information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

103. (new) A digital camera for capturing an image, comprising:  
a mode switch for setting an operation mode of the digital camera;  
an image-capturing unit operable to capture an image;  
a capture controlling unit operable to control said image-capturing unit;  
a processing unit operable to process said image; and  
an operating unit operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera,  
said operating unit comprising  
a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically

disposed on the digital camera; and

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions,

wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user as a first icon and information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions as a second icon, and said first icon is larger than said second icon.

104. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 103, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

105. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 104, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

106. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 105, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

107. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 103, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

108. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 103, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

109. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 103, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

110. (new) The digital camera as claimed in claim 106, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.